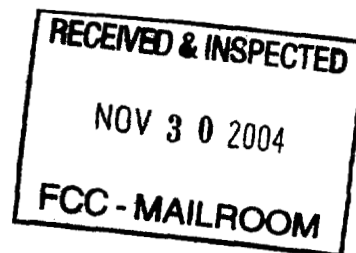




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**San Manuel Economic
Development Foundation, Inc.**
For the improvement of San Manuel

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San Manuel, AZ 85631



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Court57M@aol.com

November 23, 2004

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Dear Sir,

RE: MB No. 04-233

Please accept my enclosed comments.

Sincerely,

Rev. Morris Courtright, Ph.D., P.E.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Board Members: Morris Courtright, PhD, Patricia H. Brower, M.Ed., Miguel Olivas, M.A.

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

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FCC - MAILROOM

In the Matter of:

Broadcast Localism

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MB Docket No. 04-233

Comments of a small town citizen

1. Introduction

San Manuel, AZ is a former mining community in the throes of changing from a mining based economy to an economy based on being both a retirement and bedroom community. Nearby are the communities of Mammoth and Oracle, which combine to a total population of almost 10,000 people (9700 in 2000 US Census) all of which are unserved by any local broadcast media. As noted in the NOI localism has been a cornerstone of broadcast regulation for decades. This emphasis has served many local communities with their only 24 hour 7 day a week source of local news and events.

In recent years most all broadcast media has elected to play to the major markets in order to maximize profit and in the process lost the localism that was intended when the station was originally allocated to the community. In this particular case, the local channel was moved up on the adjacent mountain and now plays to the nearby major market of Tucson leaving the areas with no source of local news and events.

2. Local Events of significance

In the past years there have been three significant events occur that went unreported to the local citizens until they became involved in them. 1) A forest fire on Mount Lemmon burned down the mountain to the outskirts of Oracle and there was no way to issue warnings or instructions except for Sheriff's Deputies going door to door. This is extremely difficult due to the sparse rural location of dwellings in large parts of the area. 2) A flood from a rainstorm subsequent to the fire closed the only paved road into San Manuel for about 4 hours and there was no way for citizens to find out till they became trapped in the traffic. 3) A head-on fatal traffic accident closed State Highway for 7 hours and the local citizens who became trapped had to resort to cell phones to warn other citizens of the problem. It took the Sheriff and highway department almost 3 hours to get appropriate roadblocks established to divert the traffic to dirt roads. These are only three of the many local events and incidents that were never reported on any of the broadcast media that purport to cover the area. Events such are a *prima facie* reason for returning localism to the broadcast media by use of the LPFM Service.

3. Low Power FM (LPFM)

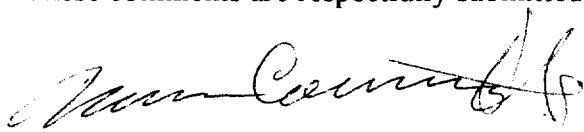
We see LPFM as the key to providing a local source for news, events and education much as was envisioned for the former Class D non-commercial stations the operated with a maximum power of 100 watts. LPFM once again can be totally local stations, often local using volunteer help, and serve to fill the public need left unserved by the larger AM/FM/TV stations And satellite broadcast media.

4. Conclusion

We urge the Commission to:

- 1) favorably consider opening further LPFM availability in accordance with the Mitre study
- 2) allow those previous denied for third channel interference an opportunity to refile an application in accordance with the new requirement
- 3) open subsequent filing windows at reasonable intervals to truly return localism to the broadcast media.

These comments are respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morris Courtright", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Morris Courtright, Ph.D., P.E.
retired broadcast engineer